GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3187
ANSWERED ON:23.03.2005
IMPLEMENTATION OF PNDT ACT
Reddy Shri Magunta Sreenivasulu

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques Regulations and Prevention of Misuses Act ;

(b) if so, the steps taken to implement the Act to check female foeticide effectively;

(c) whether there is any proposal to set up `Cradle Babies Centres` in Andhra Pradesh where unwanted children mostly female could be left; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE (SMT. PANABAKA LAKSHMI)

(a) & (b) Yes, Sir. The Implementation of the Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques Act rests with the States and Union Territories through the Appropriate Authorities appointed under the Act at State. District as well as at Sub-district levels. The violators of the Act are punishable with imprisonment upto 5 years and fine up to Rs.5 lakhs, along with cancellation of registration of the license. By the end of February 2005, 25770 Units have been registered in the Country. There are 300 ongoing Court/Police Cases and 33 machines seized / sealed. Out of the total of 300 violations, 214 relate to non-registration, 10 relate to non-maintenance of records, 24 against communication of the sex of the foetus and the remaining are for other violations of the Act. National Monitoring and Inspection Committee has been constituted at the Central level to take stock of the ground realities by field visits to the problem areas. The sale of ultrasound machine by the manufactures can only be made to the units registered under the Act. For better implementation of Act at prosecution level, National Judicial Academy, Bhopal has been involved in the training of Judiciary. To enhance awareness about the Act, a number of activities through print and other media units are undertaken.

It is, nevertheless, recognized that mere legislation is not enough to deal with this problem that has roots in social behavior and prejudices. Various activities have been undertaken to create awareness against the practice of pre-natal determination of sex and female foeticide through Radio, Television, and print media units. Workshops and seminars are also organized through Voluntary Organizations at State/ regional / district / block levels to create awareness against this social evil. Cooperation has also been sought from religious leaders, as well as medical fraternity to curb this practice. The Government of India has launched `Save the Girl Child Campaign` with a view to lessen son preference by highlighting achievements of young girls. For 2003-04, Ms.Sania Mirza, Tennis player, and for 2004-05, Ms. Aruna Kesvan, CBSE topper, were appointed as Brand Ambassador for the Campaign.

(c) & (d) The state Government of Andhra Pradesh has informed that they are discussing the proposal to place cradles at all Government Hospitals with the Women Development and Child Welfare Department.